

# FACTSheet

## Former Nebraska Ordnance Plant ■ Mead, Nebraska

### Military Munitions Site Inspection Activities at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant

A Military Munitions Site Inspection is being initiated at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant as a result of the recommendations presented in the Ordnance and Explosives Recurring Review of July 2010. The purpose of the Site Inspection is to evaluate data concerning whether evidence of an explosive hazard exists in two specific areas at the Site and to review groundwater data for degradation products related to alleged mustard agent at the former Landfill Area (Site 8). Site Inspection field activities are scheduled for July 2011 and the Final Report is expected to be completed by January 2012. The results of the Site Inspection will be evaluated to determine if further investigation is required at the Site.

Two specific areas during the 2010 Ordnance and Explosive Recurring Review site visit revealed pieces of munitions debris that will be the subject of more review during the Site Investigation. At the area known as Site 5, which is located near the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Beef Nutrition Research Area, two pieces of munitions debris were found in the bank of the creek. One item was a partial bomb base plate and the other appeared to be a spent grenade fuse. The debris was discovered approximately 15-20 feet below the ground surface and located outside the area of where previous clearance activities occurred in May 1997.

The second area, known as the Potential Landfill Area, revealed munitions debris in the form of empty booster cups, an inert bomb fuse, and other miscellaneous trash along the shoreline of the reservoir. Additionally, in 2005 a bomb base plate was found in this area by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln representative. During the 2010 site visit, the area where munitions debris had been previously located was no longer visible due to recent rainfall and the elevation of the reservoir water level.

The third remaining area of investigation for the Site Investigation is the former Landfill Area at Site 8. This area is alleged to be the burial location of Chemical Warfare Material, specifically mustard agent. However, historical information concerning Site 8 is inconsistent and inconclusive as to the

presence of mustard agent. As a matter of precaution, a security fence was installed around the landfill near the suspected Chemical Warfare Material burial location in 1994. University of Nebraska-Lincoln later extended the fence to encompass an area described by a former Civilian-in-Charge at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant as the burial location of the Chemical Warfare Material. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed down gradient of Site 8 in 1992 and were sampled for the three indicator parameters for mustard agent; thiodiglycol, 1,4-oxathiane, and 1,4-dithiane. Several years of samples from these wells found no detections of thiodiglycol, a degradation product of mustard agent. In June 2007, sampling of monitoring wells near the landfill was re-initiated. Results from all wells sampled were non-detect for the three mustard agent indicating parameters.

The Site Investigation will address these three areas at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant. Site Investigation activities will consist of a magnetometer-assisted surface reconnaissance conducted by Ordnance Safety Specialists who are trained and experienced in identifying military munitions. The target areas where previous munitions debris has been located include the shoreline at the reservoir area and at Site 5 include the creek and both banks from the south end of the former Demolition Grounds north to Highway 66. At the Former Landfill Area, Site 8, the Site Investigation efforts will consist of an assessment of historic records and evaluation of the groundwater sampling data to determine if there is any evidence of a release of mustard agent in the Landfill Area. The focus of the Site Investigation is to provide data for the evaluation of whether additional munitions exist that may pose an explosive hazard or if there has been a release of mustard agent at Site 8. The Site Investigation will also recommend if further investigation is warranted at these Sites.

### January 2011

For more information or any questions concerning the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant project, please contact:

#### John M. Miller

Project Manager  
Military Munitions Response  
Design Center  
U.S. Army  
Corps of Engineers  
Omaha District  
Phone (402) 995 2735  
email:  
John.M.Miller@usace.army.mil

#### Kristine Stein

Project Manager  
U.S. Army  
Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City District  
601 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106  
Phone (816) 389-3172  
email:  
kristine.m.stein@usace.army.mil

or go to the project website at  
<http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/mead>

Information repository  
documents are available for  
review at:

#### Mead Public Library

316 South Vine Street  
Mead, Nebraska 68041  
(402) 624-6605

#### Hours

Monday: 2-7 PM  
Thursday: 9:30-11:30 AM, and  
2-7 PM  
Saturday: 9-12 PM



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®

# FACTSHEET

## Military Munitions Response Locations

